

Joint Meeting of the Senate Education Committee and K12 School Aid and Education Appropriations Subcommittee on Common Core State Standards

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- The members of Business Leaders for Michigan lead Michigan's largest and most well-known companies, including Consumers Energy, DTE Energy, Dow Chemical Company, Ford, General Motors, Haworth, Steelcase, and Whirlpool, among many others.
- Together, we drive over 25% of the state's economy, provide over 325,000 direct and 820,000 indirect jobs in Michigan, generate over \$1 trillion in annual revenue, and serve nearly one half of all Michigan public university students.
- We are dedicated to making Michigan a top ten State for job, economic and personal income growth.
- My comments today will focus on why the standards represent a critical step toward improving Michigan's competitiveness and economic success.
- A key characteristic of top-performing states and regions around the world is that they develop and attract an ample supply of talent with the right skills to fill the middle- and high-skill jobs that provide higher personal income levels and help spur economic growth.

- These jobs require more education and training, and the good news for us is that they are **in demand** in Michigan:
 - 80% of all jobs in Michigan are considered middle- or high-skill, requiring some level of post-secondary education.ⁱ
- And demand for these jobs in Michigan will only increase in the future:
 - 4 out of 5 of the highest paying, most in-demand jobs in the state over the next several years will require at least an Associate's degree.ⁱⁱ
- The bad news is that Michigan does not have enough talent to fill these jobs.
 - A Lumina Foundation analysis projects that, between now and 2025, Michigan faces a shortage of 900,000 workers with at least an Associate's degree – the number necessary to fill the jobs that will be available.ⁱⁱⁱ
- This is not surprising when you look at Michigan's talent pipeline and see that it has been contracting:
 - Over the last decade, K12 enrollment has declined 10%;^{iv}
 - Only 68% of Michigan third-graders are reading at proficiency;^v
 - We are only graduating 76% of our students;^{vi} and
 - Only 18% of our students are career- and college-ready;^{vii}

- Some might believe that this is only a problem in urban school districts or with low-income students; in fact, this is the case in many districts across the state:
 - In Ann Arbor Public Schools – 41%; in East Lansing Public Schools – 35%; in Oakland ISD Public Schools – 25% of students meet the career- and college-ready benchmark.^{viii}
- If Michigan is to compete and win in the future we must change course, and implementing the CCSS is a critical step in the right direction.
 - The standards provide a set of clear expectations that are internationally benchmarked against high-performing regions around the world, ensuring our student-preparation will be second to none and letting us know if Michigan children are learning at the same pace as those in Indiana and Ohio or India and Japan;
 - They are consistent for all – and not dependent on a student’s zip code – ensuring all students, in any district of the state, gain the knowledge and skills necessary for a career or to further their education; and
 - They provide an opportunity for Michigan to learn from innovative practices in other states that may be getting better results.
- The CCSS do not infringe upon the right of every district to decide how best to meet the standards.
- BLM supports local control over these decisions and the right of every district to set curriculum.
- But as taxpayers and consumers of our public education system, we all should expect the highest return possible on our investment by ensuring that our children can be as successful as any in the world.

- Simply put, it's not enough to know how our children rank against others in Michigan. We need to know if they can compete against the best in the country and around the globe.
- The CCSS are a critical step toward that goal, and we respectfully urge the committee's swift action to move forward with their implementation.

ⁱ *Michigan's Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs; Meeting the Demands of a 21st Century Economy*, Skills2Compete and the Workforce Alliance, October 2009

ⁱⁱ Business Leaders for Michigan analysis of *Michigan's 50 Hot Jobs* list, Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives, Michigan Department of Management and Budget, November, 2011

ⁱⁱⁱ *A Stronger Nation Through Higher Education*, Lumina Foundation, June 2013

^{iv} Business Leaders for Michigan analysis of *House Fiscal Agency School Aid Background Briefing*, January 2013

^v Michigan Education Dashboard, 2013

^{vi} Michigan Education Dashboard, 2013

^{vii} Michigan Education Dashboard, 2013

^{viii} Spring 2010-2013 ACT Four Year Proficiency Data, Michigan Department of Education, 2013